
S251 And Cleveland

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When it snows in Massachusetts, which has happened often this year, it seems a good time to spread out one of my specialty perfin collections and put in some interesting and enjoyable time. Many of the perfin collectors reading this article already know that I collect perfin covers from two cities - Cleveland, OH (where I was born) and Worcester, MA (where I worked and near to where I now live). P.S. - If you have any covers cancelled with these two cities for trade or sale, I'm always interested!

The project of the day was Cleveland covers and I started into them to try to formulate in my mind what I might need, and how I might incorporate them into an exhibit. After about 15 minutes of sorting, I picked up the cover show below and realized something I hadn't before. The cancel is Cleveland, NY.

Now as a small child in Cleveland, OH, I knew that when anyone said "Cleveland", Ohio was always assumed. I did realize that several other Clevelands existed in the US but they were relatively small towns. I checked my Cleveland, OH list and sure enough, pattern S251 (and possibly S251.1) were on that list. A quick look to pg S-28 in the 1998 "Catalog of United States Perfins" lists Cleveland, OH as the location of the user. However, on pg S-69

adjacent to S251 is an explanation that New York, NY is the location, I wondered if Cleveland, NY was meant in either location of the information? Further, the initials don't match the user - a good observation!

Second, of the two stamps on the cover, only one is perfined. This may be use of a perfin sent for return mail. I would suspect that my cover is the one the catalog editor had also seen although I do not have a record of the several dozen I sent to him for identifying purposes just prior to the 1998 printing.

So here we are again with more questions than we have answers. Does anyone out there have any light to shed on this mystery? The only answer I now have is that this is "probably" not a Cleveland, OH perfin as it is certainly not a Cleveland, OH cover. Maybe it would still make for an interesting ending to the exhibit - uum!

